

Arkansas Children's Hospital has a legacy of supporting community benefit work to ensure that children, youth, and their families can plug in to healthy communities. Community benefit enhances the health of communities, improving access to health care, advancing medical or health knowledge, and supporting government or community efforts.

Fiscal year 2019 was the final year of the 2017-2019 Implementation Strategy based on the 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment for Arkansas Children's Hospital. This Implementation Strategy laid out 66 goals, and 57 goals were completed.

In **FY19** – Arkansas Children's Hospital invested

\$63,325,271

in Community Benefit work.

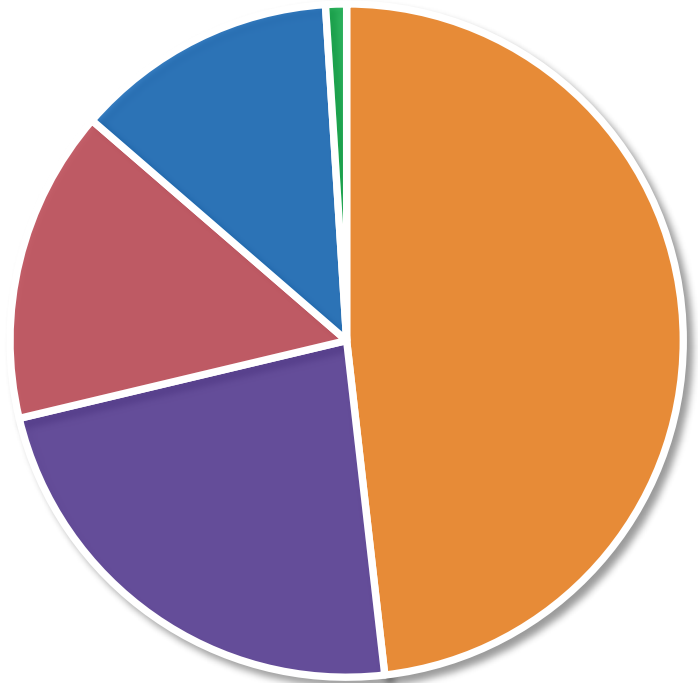
Uncompensated Care 48.4%

Health Professions Education 23.2%

Research 15.5%

Community Health Improvement 12.6%

Cash & In-Kind Contributions 0.3%



Uncompensated Care

\$30.6 million

spent supporting qualifying families' health care needs.

Uncompensated care ensures that families can meet their own basic needs while helping their children access needed health care. Arkansas Children's Hospital has a strong history of, and commitment to, treating patients regardless of ability to pay.



\$7,990,796 spent improving the health needs of children and their families.

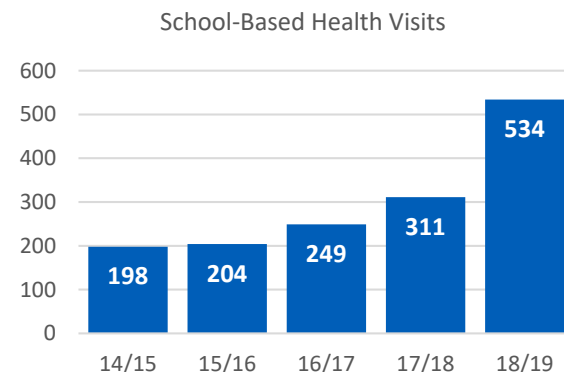
Community health improvement programs are programs designed to address community needs. The 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment identified ten focus areas for these community health improvement activities. This work follows the goals set out in the 2017-2019 Implementation Strategy for Arkansas Children's Hospital.

The **Arkansas Children's, Natural Wonders Innovation Fund** supports projects with key elements to advancing the Natural Wonders child health areas in Arkansas. In fiscal year 2019, seven projects were funded to back transformative community initiatives proposed through the subgroups of Natural Wonders. Each year, Arkansas Children's and the Natural Wonders Partnership Council come together to contribute proposals and help select the contracted projects, which are funded up to \$50,000 each as community benefit work. Arkansas Children's is the cornerstone organization for the Natural Wonders Partnership Council (Natural Wonders). Natural Wonders is a coalition of stakeholders who work in partnership to organize, mobilize and deliver on defined strategic interventions, with the goal of improving children's health in our state.

Access to Care – *Bringing clinical care close to home*

- More patients had access to health coverage with over 7,400 Medicaid applications processed by ACH financial counselors.
- Through an after-hours resource line, nurses responded to almost 27,000 phone calls to provide medical advice for non-emergency issues or help identify potential complications before they became more serious problems.
- Non-English-speaking patients received quality care with 15 interpreters assisting with visits.
- The Stephens School-Based Health Center provided over 500 visits to students and their siblings in the Little Rock School District, bringing care close to where children live, learn, and play.

Visits **increased by 170%** from the 2014-15 school year to the 2018-19 school year.



Childhood Obesity – *Making the healthy choice the easy choice*

- Over 12,000 classrooms, 93% of eligible elementary school teachers, used GoNoodle at least once during the 2018-19 school year. This allowed for short "brain breaks" to activate students bodies and mines.
- Fourteen elementary schools participated in OrganWise Guys and twenty middle schools participated in CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health), which represented all five regions of the state. These programs address nutrition and physical activity for students.
- The ACH Community Garden doubled the amount of produce harvested. Over 4,000 pounds of produce went to support nearby Helping Hand Food Pantry.

Mental Health & Substance Use – *Bridging gaps among systems serving children*

- ACH continued to provide a \$1 per year lease to the Children's Protection Center in the new Clark Center for Safe & Healthy Children, a one-stop facility brings together the medical, psychological, and social health services children need.

Innovation Fund:

Arkansas School Nurse Mental Health Forums

- School nurses have asked for additional training to support students' mental health. This training focuses on specific mental health strategies to empower children to change negative thought patterns and behaviors.
- This project trained **25% of school nurses** at Arkansas public and charter schools.

Legal Aid focused on preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- Legal Aid of Arkansas, part of the Arkansas Children's Medical-Legal Partnership, has built legal infrastructure to address ACEs. This project created an ACEs screener, trained 54 attorneys, and created family-friendly information about ACEs.

Reproductive Health – *Focusing on healthy births*

Innovation Fund: Love Notes, Health Relationships Curriculum

- The **Love Notes Healthy Relationship program**, an evidence-based course to encourage healthy relationships, and reduce teen pregnancies and STIs, has been piloted at 14 different sites since 2017. The program will now focus on a train-the-trainer model to ensure more educators are equipped with the skills to lead this important curriculum.

Social Issues – *Addressing root causes of poor health*

- Over 12,000 social needs screeners were completed by families attending appointments at three primary care clinics. Of the answered screeners, 43% of the screeners had at least one social need. Many of these needs are legal needs, addressed by the Arkansas Children’s Medical-Legal Partnership.

Innovation Fund: Assessing School Readiness

- The Arkansas Grade Level Reading Campaign and Natural Wonders have identified specific communities to engage through the Excel by Eight partnership. The Innovation Fund covered the cost of performing the Early Development Instrument (EDI), which is a tool to measure whether kindergarteners are going to meet age-appropriate developmental expectations. This is part of the baseline measure in the Excel by Eight community development work.

Parenting Supports – *Building a healthy home life for children*

- The Arkansas Home Visiting Network reached 8,000 families with children prenatal to age five in nearly every Arkansas county. Since the beginning of 2017, the number of available home visiting slots has grown by 1,700. The home visitors built relationships with families through programs that are proven to deliver positive outcomes.
- ACH’s Center for Good Mourning, a member of the National Alliance for Grieving Children, provided over 70 grief support groups around the state, with around 750 people participating.

Oral Health – *Making smiles brighter*

- School-age children in Arkansas received 5,520 dental sealants and 1,654 dental visits through the four regional mobile dental clinics and dental sealant programs. Each year, the mobile dental programs reach over 1,000 children and provide \$1.2 million in dental services to school-age children who would not otherwise have access to a dentist.

Food Security – *Eliminating childhood hunger*

- The six-session Cooking Matters classes taught 23 adults and 36 teens about healthy eating on a budget. Pop-Up Cooking Matters reached 36 sites in 17 counties which provided 205 tours reaching 4,722 students.
- Food insecure families are served in a variety of ways on the ACH campus, including the USDA meal program, and with grocery bags available during clinic visits. The Helping Hand mobile food pantry served 165 families in FY19.

Innovation Fund spotlight: Five to Thrive, with the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance

- The Hunger Relief Alliance has assisted 22 school districts in the past two years in addressing food security. These schools include 67,000 students with an average free-reduced lunch population of 72%. Five to Thrive combines five programs to support students: Breakfast After the Bell, summer and afterschool meal programs, nutrition education, school pantries, and physical activity programming. These combined efforts help increase food security for students.

Child Injury – *Tackling the leading cause of death for children*

- ACH staff, in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Health, trained AR birthing hospitals on safe sleep practices, with 93% achieving national certification by Cribs for Kids. Arkansas has one of the highest certification rates in the nation.
- The Injury Prevention Center (IPC) offered more than 20 programs that are evidence-based to reduce injuries related to motor vehicles, sleep environment, recreational activities, and suicide.
- IPC has been implementing programs to address intentional injuries, which include Mental Health First Aid, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) and Safetalk. These are available to schools, community members and workplaces.

Immunization – *Preventing infectious diseases for children*

- ACH supported the Arkansas Immunization Action Coalition to conduct a statewide survey to better understand vaccination hesitancy and confidence in Arkansas with parents of children less than five. This will help drive future work.
- Arkansas Children’s Hospital clinics increased the number of children that received all needed vaccinations.

Health Professions Education

\$14.7 million spent to support the future health work force.

ACH provided educational experiences for nursing students from around the state. This builds a future workforce of high quality nursing care for children in Arkansas. ACH maintains affiliation agreements with over 50 schools of nursing from all education levels. A student said that, "this is the best clinical experience we have ever had and thank you for making this possible!"

1,479 Nursing students received nursing education at ACH

4,365 Pre-licensure students received clinical experiences at ACH



Research

\$9.8 million spent to support research to improve children and caregivers health.

Funding supported nurses, physicians, scientists, and other investigators in their research of new innovative tools, techniques, and treatments to cure illnesses, promote wellness, and create new health possibilities for children in Arkansas. Specifically, funds supported the work of the Arkansas Children's Research Institute and ACH nursing staff time that was spent on groundbreaking research.



Highlights of Arkansas Children's Hospital Nursing Research:

- Lived experience of caregivers for infants with gastroesophageal reflux after discharge
- Virtual reality for implantable port access for adolescents with cancer
- Animal-assisted intervention in children with acquired brain injury undergoing pediatric rehabilitation

Cash & In-Kind Contributions

\$211,232 spent to support community organizations that promote children's health.

Cash & in-kind contributions were provided to other non-profits to improve child well-being. ACH supported more than three dozen nonprofit causes that aligned with community health needs.



Highlights of Arkansas Children's Hospital Community Donations:

- Addressing intentional injury by sponsoring the annual walk for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Ensuring children with disabilities have access to preschool, therapy and job training with Easter Seals Arkansas
- Providing families with a safe and convenient place to stay while accessing care for their children with Ronald McDonald House Charities